

correctly it's dealing just with Douglas County. I would like to strike all of that language and I hope you will support it. Then I intend to move against the fee being added to the marriage license, too.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler, then Senator Wesely, Senator Higgins, Senator Barrett. Senator Beutler, please.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I just wanted to speak briefly in reinforcement of Senator Chambers' remarks. Basically again, my problem is not with the goal of the bill, but also, like Senator Chambers, with the manner in which it seeks to accomplish the end. It seems to me that as Senator Chambers has indicated what we're seeking to remedy is a problem for all of us and that it doesn't make sense to tax just a particular group of people. What justification is there for taxing marriage licenses? Most of the people who get married are not causing child abuse problems. Conversely I would suggest to you that discouraging marriage or the opposite situation would lead to additional child abuse so it seems to me altogether wrong to specify that a particular group of people, those getting married, are the ones who should bear the burden of these particular programs. It seems to me that we all should bear the burden of the programs. Someone might equally suggest to you I suppose that perhaps marriage people should support the schools because after all it is by and large people who are married and have children who use the schools, but schools are a common good. They are a benefit to society as a whole just as child abuse prevention is a benefit to society as a whole and I think should be funded by society as a whole. It was interesting, a few weeks ago there were some who were arguing about property taxes and were disheartened by the fact that the property tax which originally was justified as a tax to pay for services on property has ballooned, been ballooned and ballooned until it's a tax for financing almost everything in local government, you know way beyond its original goal and design and that's what we have happening now with the marriage license tax. Why should a marriage license tax be for anything more than funding the cost of issuing a marriage license? Or if you're going to get in the business of marriage licenses funding child prevention programs, should we go on for that, for marriage license funding a whole number of other things relating to children or problems of marriage or divorce courts, funding divorce courts? Does that make much sense? I suggest to